

ELIAS SHOT DEAD

Utah Magician Is Killed In Australia.

PARTICULARS NOT SENT

MESSAGE ANNOUNCING HIS DEATH

Relatives in Salt Lake Are Much Excited In Finding a Way to Account For the Cause of the Tragedy In Which the Young Man Lost His Life.

Oscar Eliason is dead. The shocking tidings of the demise of the celebrated young wizard who achieved distinction the world over as one of Utah's most gifted sons and the foremost of prestidigitators, was received in this city early yesterday morning by Paul Hammer, Jr., cashier of the Kenyon hotel. The announcement was in a brief cablegram from Sydney, Australia, sent by Mrs. Eliason, stating merely this: "Oscar shot dead."

The news of Eliason's tragic death was particularly shocking to his immediate family and relatives in this city and to his hosts of friends throughout the state. The condolences of all go to the bereaved widow and her 7-year-old daughter, and Frank Eliason, his brother, who is with them. The distance from Australia in this city is so great that any effort to extend a helping hand to the bereaved ones away from home is impossible.

Circumstances Not Known Here.

No particulars have been received concerning Eliason's tragic death, and unless another cablegram on the subject comes soon it will probably be six weeks yet before a full account of the fatality is received.

There is no doubt in Mr. Hammer's mind that his cousin, Mrs. Eliason, and the deceased's brother, Frank, will take the first steamer sailing from Sydney for San Francisco, bringing the remains home for burial in this city, but it will probably be Jan. 15 before they arrive here.

Mr. Hammer is inclined to believe that the tragedy may have been some accident in the wizard's marvelous feat of catching bullets which gave him his death blow. It was not Eliason's custom to aim his trick in a deadly way, except for the largest audiences, and then only to produce the most intensely dramatic effect. Once in the Salt Lake theatre Eliason performed this thrilling feat when six soldiers from Fort Douglas loaded their rifles and discharged leaden missiles directly at the magician, who calmly caught the bullets in his hand as he would a baseball. That this feat is a dangerous one is well known, for only recently a slight-of-hand performer in New York met his death by a mistake in the programme.

Suggestion of a Crime.

Another but less probable theory advanced for the cause of Eliason's tragic demise is that M. B. Curtis, formerly Eliason's manager and now a murderer, had been plotting to kill him. Curtis is now in Australia, but he and Eliason settled their business differences more than a year ago, when in that time Eliason had been sole owner of the attraction. Before this settlement Eliason had reason to believe Curtis was not accounting for the entire receipts, but the controversy was settled out of court by Eliason paying Curtis \$7,000 for annulment of contract.

Curtis is better known in the character of Sam of Pussie. The letter commiserate character, having a number of years ago killed a policeman in San Francisco, but for this crime he secured an acquittal on a second trial.

A Quarrel Was Not Likely.

"But I cannot conceive that Oscar could have had trouble with any person," remarked Mr. Hammer yesterday. "He was always exceptionally cool and level-headed, and as everyone knows, his last act was to be rewarded from the ideal of the happy, genial man. Oscar is the last man in the world who would get mixed up in a quarrel."

"Of course, we have many surmises of what occasioned Oscar's death blow, but none of our theories may be correct," continued Mr. Hammer. "The cause may have been robbery, or it may have been accidental. We will have to wait for the facts, but the suspense is awful."

Money matters or poor business could have been the reason for Eliason's shooting, for the facts show that the magician from Utah has been making wealth rapidly. His career since leaving the Pacific northwest in March, 1937, for Honolulu, New Zealand and Australia, has been a series of artistic and financial successes. In one period of a little over a month in the big region of West Australia Eliason made a clear profit of \$5,000. He is believed to have accumulated over \$25,000 above his expenses while doing the southern continent.

His Last Letter Home.

A week ago a letter from Eliason was received by his brother-in-law, Mr. Paul Hammer, Jr. It told of the triumph of his sleight-of-hand attractions and the happiness and contentment of himself and family. The letter contained a remittance to pay the premium on his life insurance policy and in a characteristic happy vein expressed the desire to drop down in his home city, but the wish would have to be deferred while dollars were lying around so plentifully in the south sea country.

As stated in the letter, Eliason had dated booked in India for the next days, and upon the completion of his tour there he intended going the chief cities in China and Japan, then going through Europe and finally landing at New York on route home.

Success Was Marvelous.

Eliason's marvelous success in the southern continent is told in the fact that he played the attractions of "Dante the Great" and "Mademoiselle Edmond" the statesman in the big city of Sydney, sixty-five nights in Melbourne, sixteen in Adelaide, fourteen in Perth and so on. There were several other magical plays in Australia, but according to the press notices given Eliason by the Australian papers he outclassed them all, whether Hermanns, Kellers or Boscos.

Eliason played to packed houses and money flowed so freely in his coffers that he recently indicated his intention of investing in government bonds. All

PUSHE BUNNY HARD

Sportsmen Make Life Weary For Brer Rabbit.

MANY MEET SUDDEN END

OPPONENT PARTY CLAIMS 5,000 SCALPS.

Opposition Hunters Bagged 107 and All Hands Had Considerable Meritment Out of Their Thanksgiving Outing—Deceased Long-ears Will Be Distributed Among the Poor.

Career of the Great Magician.

Oscar Eliason was born in Salt Lake City in 1899. His father, Ole L. Eliason, is the well known veteran watchmaker and jeweler in the Temple block. Besides his father and brother, Frank, now at the side of the bereaved Eliason, there is a mid-air she pedaled a wheel and turned a somersault.

Prior to touring the Pacific northwest three years ago Eliason made two successful tours through the south, going into Mexico and over to Havana. On these occasions Thornevald S. Hammer was with them.

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